

might be suggested by a closely printed index covering almost forty pages, with four columns to the page.

In a month's use as a reference book no serious errors have been found, and except for the very frequent error of putting an umlaut over Prof. Duhring's name on page 219 and a misprint in the page number in the indexing of Trichina, no typographical errors were observed.

O. H. P. P.

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**OBSTETRICS FOR NURSES.** By CHARLES B. REED, M.D., Obstetrician to Wesley Memorial Hospital, Chicago. Pp. 374; 130 illustrations. St. Louis: C. V. Mosby Company, 1917.

THIS book is a practical manual of obstetrics for nurses. The subject is taken up in the following order: A small amount of space is given to anatomy and physiology, followed by normal pregnancy, abnormal pregnancy, labor, the care of the patient during labor and puerperium, operations, complications, infection, the care of the child, infant feeding, a list of diets, solutions and therapeutic index, and a glossary. The book contains good illustrations. The fetal circulation, which many authors fail to give, is described so clearly that any nurse may understand. Dr. Reed endorses the use of nitrous oxide gas in the first part of the second stage of labor, but advises ether or chloroform for the completion of the second stage. The section on the care of the child does not compare favorably with the rest of the book. The care of the premature infant might have been described more fully. The book will be found of practical value for those for whom it is intended.

S. B. S.

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**DISEASES OF THE SKIN.** By RICHARD T. SUTTON, M.D., Professor of Diseases of the Skin, University of Kansas, School of Medicine, etc. Second edition. Pp. 1021; 833 illustrations. St. Louis: C. V. Mosby Company, 1917.

THIS volume is a large, well-made book. The reviewer not having the privilege of reading the first edition has no means of comparing it with the later edition, but must rely entirely upon his perusal of the volume at hand for his comment. Unfortunately, by reason of his close personal contact with the work and works of Duhring, Stelwagon, Hartzell, Van Harlingen, and Sehamberg, representing the so-called Philadelphia school of dermatology, he is too likely to criticize this book unduly severely. In a word, while it is large in size and most formidable in appearance, it may be said not to measure up well to these standard works, although it seems to have been the aim of the author to do so. Pictures, and this term is used advisedly, should make up a large part of any book on dermatology,

but they should be good ones. Here we find the conventional anatomical diagrams, as usual, very good—the photomicrographs or the microphotographs, as the case may be, rather vague in their demonstrating features—and the colored plates of rather indifferent value. The pictures intended to illustrate diseases are very profuse in number but poor in quality, and thereby lose their instructive value. There is also a great abundance of references, but where an author is referred to, there is no means of knowing just what point in the discussion of the disease is attributed to that particular author. Using authorities in that manner renders the value of the bibliography questionable. Here and there throughout the sections on treatment we note obsolete forms of prescription writing. Any formula which has petrolatum for a base, for instance, does not require lengthy Latin or near-Latin instructions to make an ointment out of the ingredients named. It looks imposing but it is unnecessary. The introductory material is especially well handled, that is to say, the anatomy and physiology of the skin and the general etiology and pathology of skin diseases. Usually these chapters in works of this character are awful "bores" and contain all the fables and traditions from Hali Abbas down. Sutton is to be congratulated on his frank denial of "diathesis" and his acceptance and elaboration of occupation as a factor of prime importance in etiology. The relation of proteid substances, toxins and antitoxins to the causation of skin diseases is ably handled. Grouping of the primary lesions as to regional distribution for diagnostic purposes seems unnecessary, however, even if not inaccurate. To our mind and eye, any of the primary lesions not only may but do occur everywhere where the skin is. While this section is rather elaborate, opportunity was neglected to observe the diagnostic significance of pustules in the palms of the hand, on the female breast and on the shaft of the penis in scabies, and the pronounced distribution of the lesions in the different forms of pediculosis. Under general consideration of treatment, Sutton remarks that "purely local cutaneous maladies are indeed few and far between," with considerable emphasis, as though this were the most modern thought in this field. He qualifies this later by the statement that "constitutional treatment is intended more for the purpose of increasing the bodily resistance of the patient than for any direct or specific effect it may have on the causative factor." The relation between the general health and skin diseases is always a troublesome topic to handle, since just as we have the matter conclusively proved something embarrassing happens. We refer in passing to the everlasting enigma "psoriasis," to awaken reminiscences in the reader's mind. Looking over the book, as a whole, it may be said to include all the legends and mythology of dermatology with the modern frills of treatment, and countless illustrations of indifferent value appended.

S. H. B.